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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP: (1700)

Patent
Case No.: 53786US012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
JUL 16 2003
GROUP 1700

First Named Inventor: GEHLEN, MARK D.
Application No.: 09/714658 Group Art Unit: 1771
Filed: November 16, 2000 Examiner: Chang, Victor S.
Title: ARTICLES THAT INCLUDE A POLYMER FOAM AND METHOD
FOR PREPARING SAME

Do not enter

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Victor

7/24/03

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Commissioner for Patents
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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: | |
| July 8, 2003 | |
| Date | |
| Signed by: Sharon L. Andrew | |

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 8, 2003, Applicants provide the following Amendment and Response. Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Amended twice) A foam article comprising a polymer foam, said polymer foam having at least one of its major surfaces smooth to an Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry, said polymer foam being smooth without being bonded to an additional layer,

said polymer foam comprising a homogeneous distribution of a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres,
wherein said plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres are at least partially expanded.

57. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, further comprising at least one layer comprising a polymer composition, said layer bonded to said polymer foam.